

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5875

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RQ, CU

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO AND COMITE OF 24

1. ON FEBRUARY 13 NORWEIGIAN MISOFF BERGH JOHANSEN INFORMED

US OF RESULTS OF COMITE OF 24 (C24) AND C 24 WORKING

GROUP (WG) MEETINGS ON FEBRUARY 13. C 24 ELECTED SYRIAN

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RAPPORTEUR. WG DISCUSSED PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER SUBCOMMITTEE

ONE ITEMS (FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES) TO COMMITTEE PLENARY. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION AND PROPOSAL WILL BE MADE TO C 24 PLENARY. IT WAS DECIDED TO RENAME SUBCOMMITTEE TWO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES. IT WAS AGREED TO TRANSFER WORK OF WG ON SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND INFORMATION AND RENAME THAT SUBCOMMITTEE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE. WG ALSO AGREED THAT THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ITEM TO COME UP WOULD BE SEYCHELLES TO BE TREATED AT A SINGLE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25. NEXT ITEM WILL PROBABLY BE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOLLOWED BY SOUTHERN RHODESIA. WG DECIDED TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF NAMIBIA UNTIL MAY OR JUNE. THE VISITING MISSION TO THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS WILL TAKE PLACE SOMETIME BETWEEN THE END OF MARCH AND MAY, AND THAT TO TE TOKELAU ISLANDS IN JUNE. IN BOTH CASES, WG NOTED "NON-ALIGNED" VISITING MISSIONS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED.

2. PUERTO RICO. AT WG MEETING, CUBAN PERMREP ALARCON BROUGHT UP PUERTO RICO IN TWO CONTEXTS. DURING DISCUSSION OF WHETHER SUMMARY RECORDS OF PROCEDURAL MEETINGS ON SUBSIDIARY COMITES SHOULD BE KEPT, ALARCON POINTED OUT, JOINED BY OTHERS, THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. ALARCON SPECIFICALLY CITED THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO AS AN EXAMPLE. PUERTO RICO, HE SAID, WAS CONSIDERED A PROCEDURAL QUESTION BY MANY, BUT IT RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE MENTION IN THE PRESS AND IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION ON WHICH IT WOULD BE SILLY NOT TO HAVE A SUMMARY RECORD.

3. ALARCON ALSO REFERRED TO DOCUMENT A/A.C.109/L.1065 (PREVIOUSLY POUCHED TO WILLIAMSON, IO/UNP AND YOHN, ARA/CAR) ENTITLED "ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SPECIAL COMITE". ALARCON SAID HE COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING ON PUERTO RICO IN ABOVE DOCUMENT. AGAIN, REFERRING TO PRESS COVERAGE OF THE C 24 DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON PUERTO RICO, HE QUESTIONED THE LACK OF REFERENCT TO PUERTO RICO IN THE DOCUMENT. C 24 SECRETARY TANAKA REPLIED THAT WHILE PUERTO RICO IS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED, PARA 175 ON PAGE 14 COVERS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DECISION TAKEN ON PUERTO RICO.

4. TEXT OF PARA 175 FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

175. IN LINE WITH THE EXPRESS WISH OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE SPECIAL COMITE WILL RECOMMEND, WHENEVER IT CONSIDERS PROPER AND APPROPRIATE, A DEADLINE FOR THE ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE OF EACH TERRITORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES

OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE DECLARATION. IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE...WILL CONTINUE TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE SMALL TERRITORIES AND TO RECOMMEND TO THE ASSEMBLY THE MOST APPROPRIATE METHODS AND STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO ENABLE THE POUPLATIONS OF THOSE TERRITORIES TO EXERCISE FULLY AND WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. THE COMITE WILL ALSO CONTINUE... TO REVIEW THE LIST OF TERRITORIES TO WHICH THE DECLARATION APPLIES, SUBJECT TO ANY DIRECTIVES WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT WISH TO GIVE IN THAT CONNEXION. UNQUOTE

5. ALARCON REPLIED THAT IN HIS VIEW PUERTO RICO SHOULD HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED LIKE ANY OTHER IMPORTANT "COLONIAL" QUESTION.

6. BERGH JOHANSEN POINTED OUT THAT ALARCON MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO AND THAT HE REPEATEDLY SDIA HE DID NOT WANT TO PREJUDGE THE DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO AT THIS STAGE.

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